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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Agricultural Conditions in  
the Rostock Area

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agricultural conditions in the Rostock area.

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The results of the harvest in the ~~Bezirk~~ Rostock has turned out better than had originally been thought of. One expected a ~~xxxx~~ harvest of between 5-3% less than the previous year. On the other hand the potato harvests are just below normal. They are on the ~~xxxxxx~~ average in Rostock ~~Bezirk~~ 130 dz per hectare. The soil became much hardened ~~xxxx~~ because of the long dryness so that it is extremely difficult to use potato combines. In the ~~Bezirk~~ Rostock by the 5th of this month still a half of the potatoes will not have been harvested. Also the sugar beets have had completely unsatisfactory results. The best harvests have 260 dozen per hectare. The harvest goes very slowly forwards. Because of the tremendous hardness of the soil the turnips are very difficult to get out of the ground. The tops break almost everywhere, and this is where the highest sugar content is. The use of

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combines is almost impossible. The LFC ~~has~~ for months has had to transport water to the farmers for for the cattle from the ponds etc, since the wells have dried up. Often the well water has not even been sufficient to cover the human needs. The shortage of water is almost more difficult to bridge than the shortage of raw fodder and beets. The summer fruit crops has brought only a small amount of green amounts, and have brown very little and are very small, so that they are used for feeding the cattle. Great difficulties also exist in the fall cultivation. Frequently the plows don't go through the soil at all and there where they are set in deeply only the ~~clods~~ clods are broken up. From here seed beets are almost impossible to make. ~~Some of~~ Such kinds of ~~xxxx~~ difficulties that have appeared in the fall cultivation this year, have not been seen ~~xxxx~~ from time ~~xxxx~~ immemorial. As a consequence of this the entire crop is extremely meager - and the winter wheat that has also been harvested is also very meager.

ILLEGIB

Extremely great this year has been the damage caused by field mice.

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Average-wise the private farmers ~~are~~ paid 200 DM per hectare for soil improvement work. In so far as the farmers refuse to pay the amount, as they have not given their assent for the carrying out of the work, then the money for the milk at the dairies is confiscated.

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 attempt at the  
 The SED officials ~~from~~ the LPG assemblies to convince the members of the LPG that it is correct to unite with the other LPG's to a large Kolchose. The ~~present~~ perspective plan provides that in some parts of the Bezirk already are pooling together several LPG's into a Large Kolchose by 1960, although the LPG- members have refused strenuously to accept this concept. The smallest of the Big Kolchose is to amount is ~~xxx~~ for the time being an average of 2000 hectares L.P. At very many of the LPG's complete ~~work~~ meetings, when the uniting comes into the conversation, then it turns into a tumultuous scene. These are often spurred on by the chairmen and other functionaries, because as soon as ~~any~~ the ~~present~~ large Kolchose come about, they will lose their jobs.

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As the private farmers in Vorpommern have not only saved their potato harvest and for the most part, the sugar beets are also already out of the ground, the LPG's are still very far behind with their work. The Bezirk Rostock has published in the press that the clearing of the potatoes is 100% ready. According to its observation, still however at least 20% of the potato fields can be cleared. Added to this is the shortage of laborers, which gleans the potato fields. The potato combines have in this year worked particularly poorly, about 30% of the potato harvests have remained on the fields after the reaping of the combines. The harvests in Bezirk Rostock should amount to 180 dz per hectare on the average. Sugar beets are to be about 240 dz per hectare. The sugar percentage in this year is about 2% higher than last year and may amount to 17-18%. The school children have been extensively put into the shell fruit harvesting in the LPG's. One can well say that the children work 3 days of the week in the LPG and at the most have still 3 days of school. Ostensibly these so-called most performed polytechnically instruction days during the course of the winter are to be saved. This was said at least to the parents of the children when they complained over the constant employment of the children. The utilization of the MTS machines was in this year on the basis of the dryness and the hardened soil particularly difficult. Already after a short time, the working performance came to a stop particularly in the case of the combines, as bolts, sprockets, etc. broke and replacements are not available in enough quantity. Although the potatoes and also the turnip combines have been out of action for 2 days. If the members of the LPG have been asked to collect by hand often it is refused with the reasoning that they have been promised that all work would be done by machine. The LPG attempted to borrow the old uprooting machine from the private farmers. The private farmers refused this with the reasoning that the soil is much too hard and in a short time the uprooting machine would become defective.

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The fall seeding is [redacted] in [redacted] the Bezirk Rostock being carried on at the most to 50%. The tractors with their plows on the [redacted] stubble fields simply did not go into the ground and it was only partly plowed and the machine looked as if it had been in an explosion in a stone quarry. For these reasons one has tried to cultivate the reaped shell fruit areas with winter seed. The seeding is very poor and according to the opinion of specialists must be recultivated in the spring.

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The SED officials have now tried to carry on the unifying of several LPG into a large Kolchosen. This makes not only problems [redacted] with the LPG members but also with the managing committee and with the SED [redacted] Political-Secretary for the [redacted] LPG himself. They know exactly that then their places can be saved and they [redacted] themselves [redacted] must perform manual work as a member of [redacted] the LPG. Through this sort of constant agitation, the working morale of the LPG members becomes worse from week to week. Many of the farmers who originally did not have to join but nevertheless became members of the LPG and [redacted] today are sorry for joining this organization, are the best propagandists for the private farmers, in so far as they have contact with one another. In conversations they warn the [redacted] private farmers against joining and give their own [redacted] examples and what happened to them. Although it is clearly evident, with which great difficulties the LPG must struggle with, a heavier pressure is being made on the private farmers through the LPG [redacted] propaganda brigade, for them to join the LPG's. Since they cannot be won over with speeches alone, in some of the Krisesin the Bezirk Rostock the farmers are not being given any more artificial fertilizer for the fall cultivation. Nothing is to be said about making available seeds for the fall cultivation. The refusal to deliver the artificial fertilizer is to apply for the entire year for the private farmers and only after 1960 will they once again be able to receive artificial fertilizer. This will show up naturally in the harvest yields of [redacted] the coming year.

In general, the [redacted] weather in late summer and beginning of fall was very favorable so that the entire after crop of wheat without a doubt could have been saved. The independent [redacted] farmers [redacted] have also completely